

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for sending an advertisement to a user operating a wireless communication device, comprising:

receiving first information about a current location of the user, wherein the current location is determined by monitoring the location of the wireless communication device as the wireless communication device is moved to at least one different location;

searching a first database containing a plurality of location-specific advertisements;

selecting a first one of the plurality of location-specific advertisements that is associated with the current location of the user; and

sending the first one of the plurality of location-specific advertisements to the wireless communication device in the form of a first packet-based ~~TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol)~~ message over a communication network.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving second information about the identity of the user;

searching a second database containing a plurality of user-specific advertisements;

identifying a second one of the plurality of user-specific advertisements; and

sending the second one of the plurality of user-specific advertisements to the wireless communication device over the communication network without transmitting an indication of the identity of the user therewith.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the second one of the plurality of user-specific advertisements is sent to the wireless communication device in the form of a second ~~TCP/IP~~ packet-based message.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the second one of the plurality of user-specific advertisements is identified based on one or more criteria pre-selected by the user.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving second information about the identity of the user;
accessing a second database containing a plurality of user-specific preferences;
identifying one or more preferences in the second database that are associated with the user;
selecting the first one of the plurality of location-specific advertisements based on the one or more preferences in the second database; and
sending the first one of the plurality of location-specific advertisements in the form of the first ~~TCP/IP~~ packet-based message to the wireless communication device without transmitting an indication of the identity of the user therewith.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein receiving the second information about the identity of the user is accomplished by obtaining the second information for a fee.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the second information about the identity of the user is accomplished by soliciting the second information from the user when the user signs up for a service that provides one or more location-specific advertisements to the user.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein receiving the second information about the identity of the user is accomplished by extracting the second information from a message transmitted by the wireless communication device.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first information about the location of the user includes second information about the identity of the user, and wherein the first one of the plurality of location-specific advertisements is sent to the wireless communication device without transmitting an indication of the identity of the user therewith.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first information about the location of the user excludes second information about the identity of the user.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein searching the first database includes:
accessing the first database; and
matching the location of the user received in the first information against each of a plurality of locations stored in the first database to determine which of the plurality of location-specific advertisements is associated with the location of the user.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first one of the plurality of location-specific advertisements is sent to the wireless communication device over the Internet.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of sending an advertisement over a communication network to a user operating a wireless communication device, comprising:

receiving first information about a current location of the user, the current location being routinely monitored;

receiving second information about the identity of the user;

searching a database containing a plurality of location-specific advertisements, wherein the plurality of location-specific advertisements are stored in a format selected from the group consisting of at least a digital audio format and a digital text format;

selecting one of the plurality of location-specific advertisements based on one or more criteria pre-selected by the user; and

routinely sending the one of the plurality of location-specific advertisements to the wireless communication device over the communication network without transmitting the identity of the user therewith.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein receiving the first information about the location of the user is accomplished by obtaining the first information from an information provider.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the first information about the location of the user is obtained from the information provider for a fee.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein receiving the second information about the identity of the user includes receiving the second information from an information provider.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein selecting the one of the plurality of location-specific advertisements includes:

receiving the one or more criteria from the user;

storing the one or more criteria received from the user in the database; and

consulting the one or more criteria while selecting the one of the plurality of location-specific advertisements from the database.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising allowing the user to unblock over the Internet the transmission of the identity of the user.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising disclosing the identity of the user to an emergency service provider when the user requests emergency help.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the one of the plurality of location-specific advertisements is sent over the communication network in the form of a packet-based message.